





Tobacco Industry Interference tactics in Caribbean countries

"Strengthening Implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Article 5 in the Region of the Americas " March 17, 2021

Barbara McGaw

Project Adviser – Tobacco Control, Jamaica Coalition For Tobacco Control
Tobacco Advisor Healthy Caribbean Coalition

Thanks!!





The Heart Foundation of Jamaica (HFJ) was established in 1971

- A member of The InterAmerican Heart Foundation, the Framework Convention Alliance and The World Heart Federation.
- HFJ is involved in prevention programmes for cardiovascular disease.
- Spearheaded the establishment of The Jamaica Coalition for Tobacco Control (JCTC) on May 31, World No Tobacco Day, 2002.
- Health Advocacy Group with 9 medical and para-medical organisations



The Coalition's Objectives:

- 1. To support the enactment and implementation of comprehensive tobacco control legislation aligned to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.
- 2. To support and promote tobacco control activities geared towards the reduction of the use of all forms of tobacco and nicotine products.
- 3. To sensitise all vulnerable groups about the impact of using tobacco, e-cigarettes and all nicotine products.



The Coalition's Objectives (con't):

- 1. To be a watch group, identifying and mitigating against tobacco industry interference and activity that promotes the use of tobacco, e-cigarettes and all nicotine products.
- 2. To support measures for persons who wish to quit smoking.



What we do

- Sensitization meetings with key stakeholders
- Signing of petitions
- Support for implementing and monitoring tobacco laws
- Monitoring the activities of the tobacco industry, sharing breaches of Article 5.3 by stakeholders
- Naming and Shaming- reporting to Government any infringements of FCTC Articles, using the local and international media to force compliance



What we do

- Letters to the Editor and articles in the newspapers
- Calling on international partners to bring attention to breaches
- Countering claims by the tobacco industry
- Garner support from other key organizations (Unions, FBO)
- Prepare and circulate advocacy tools and handouts to key organizations
- Using the Access to Information Act to obtain documents outlining breaches of the FCTC and/or tobacco industry interference

Tobacco industry in the Caribbean

Two companies dominate this industry in the Caribbean: British American Tobacco (BAT) and Philip Morris International (PMI).

BAT in Jamaica is Carreras, in Trinidad and Tobago WITCO, in Guyana Demerara Tobacco

The Caribbean headquarters of BAT is located in Costa Rica. The Caribbean Area of BAT Caribbean and Central America is made up several companies operating in the region

Tobacco Industry Caribbean











Tobacco industry in the Caribbean

Philip Morris Dominicana, PMI is the headquarters for the Caribbean (Dominican Republic). Philip Morris Dominicana manufactures cigarettes for export to the Caribbean. The products from Philip Morris are distributed by wholesalers across the region

Cigarettes are manufactured in Trinidad & Tobago (BAT)

There has recently been an influx of Chinese and African cigarettes



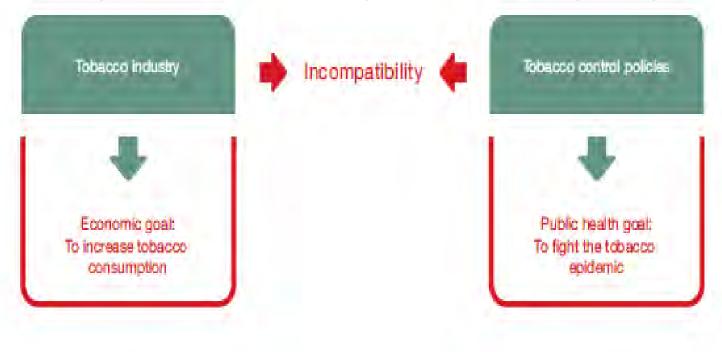
Tobacco Industry Caribbean





Tobacco industry interference

There is a fundamental, irreconcilable and inherent conflict between the tobacco industry's interests and public health policy interests



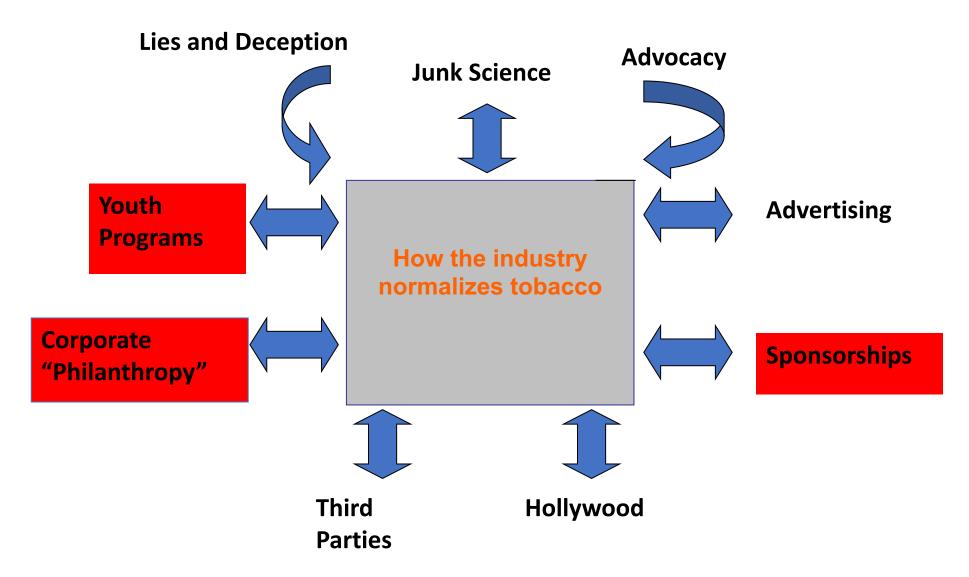
Health is not negotiable-Guidelines for understanding, monitoring and counteracting tobacco industry interference with public policies (2012)

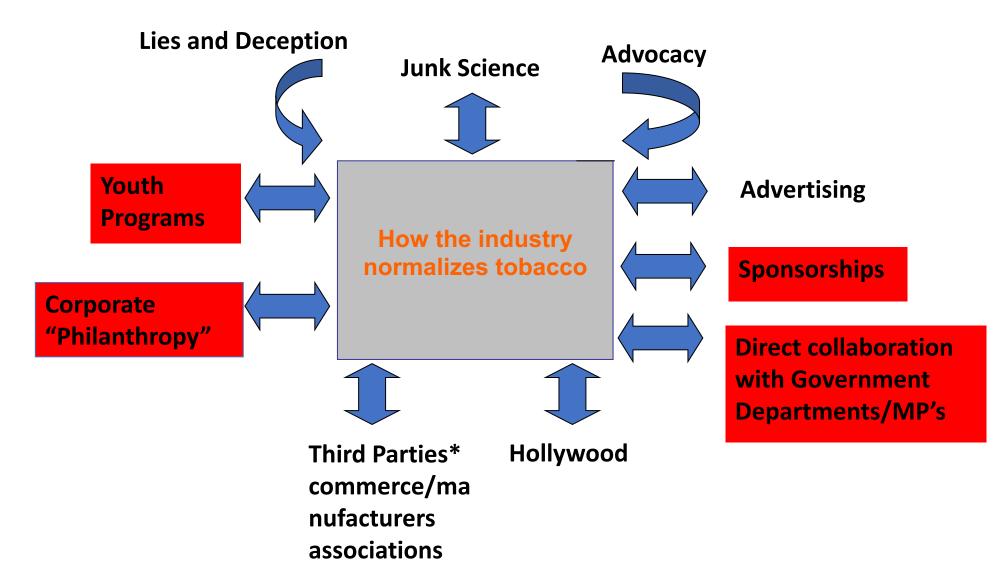
Article 5.3 FCTC

Tobacco industry Interference: The FCTC Commitments

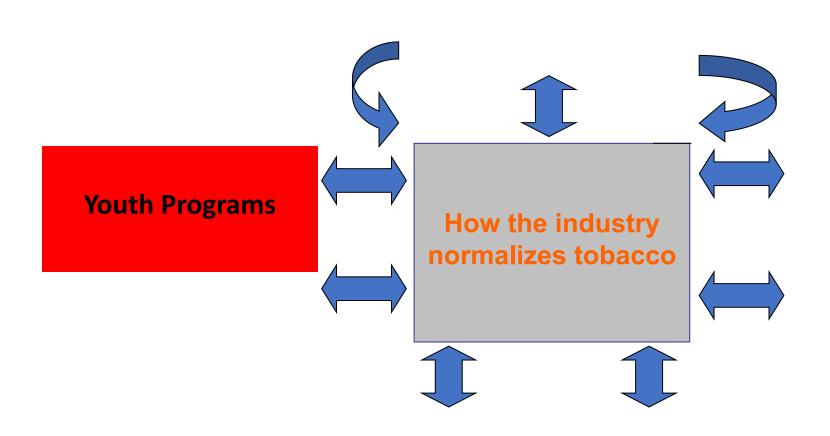
Under Article 5.3 of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), Parties agree that, in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, they shall act to protect these policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry.

This commitment is made recognizing 'the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts' (Preamble).





- Tobacco control interference examples in this presentation are a bit dated
- There have been much less examples in recent times



Youth smoking prevention programme

Youth smoking prevention programmes are present in several Caribbean Countries

Objective

To prevent the purchase of cigarettes by persons under 18 year of age (research has shown that these programmes have the opposite effect)

Youth smoking prevention programme Jamaica



In collaboration with Ministry of Education and Child Development Agency

Youth smoking prevention programmes Barbados, St Lucia



fone | Local Navo | Sports | Editorial | Labors & Opinion | Business | Fastures | Inspirational | Of Cabbages & Kings | NFWO | Cansalas | Andrews | Yor | P. Features Enter Address Here BAT Youth Prevention Sand his URL Programme Print his Page

> On Friday, the British American Tobacco Group teamed up with Bryden and Partners to make St. Lucie a part of their global militative, by launching for the first time the British American Youth Smoking Prevention Programme. The BAT Youth Prevention Programme has already been launched in Central America and across a wide area of the Caribbean, such as Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Surinama, Guyana and a number of OECS States.

The main objective of the BAT Youth Smoking Prevention Programme is to impede and in time prohibit the sale of tobacco products to minors, at the point of sale. Posters and barriers will also be placed strategically near comer shops, supermarkets and other locations to embros his message.

As the leading distributors of inbacco products in St. Lucia, Bryden & Partners is prepared to assist by discouraging its retail patners to sell tobacco to minors, and if need be, sensitize young people so that they may now be required to provide photo identification if a retailer is in any doubt of their age.

"We are mindful of the school of thought which says that our industry actually encourages young people to smoke and that our efforts to prevent under age smoking are at best window-dressing and at worst, covert advertising. But the point must be made that contrary to what is sometimes claimed, under-aged smoking actually does harm to our industry's reputation and we certainly do not base our business shallow on under-age consumption. Put blustly, like our suppliers. British American Tobacco Company, we believe that people who are

- . What a Wick: the last 7 days in 19 (3n to 9th September 2011)
- . Special Sitting to pay tribute to the Honourable Justice Kenneth Seniamin: Part2
- Celebrating International Literacy Day
- The CCSI Recognises International Literacy Day
- . Opening of Fond Assau Agro-Processing Centre

+ advertisement

'This morning's event further reinforces our company's unswerving

tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18," he said.

his company was of the view that the "application of effective stakeholder

engagement, harnessing the expertise and understanding of all interested

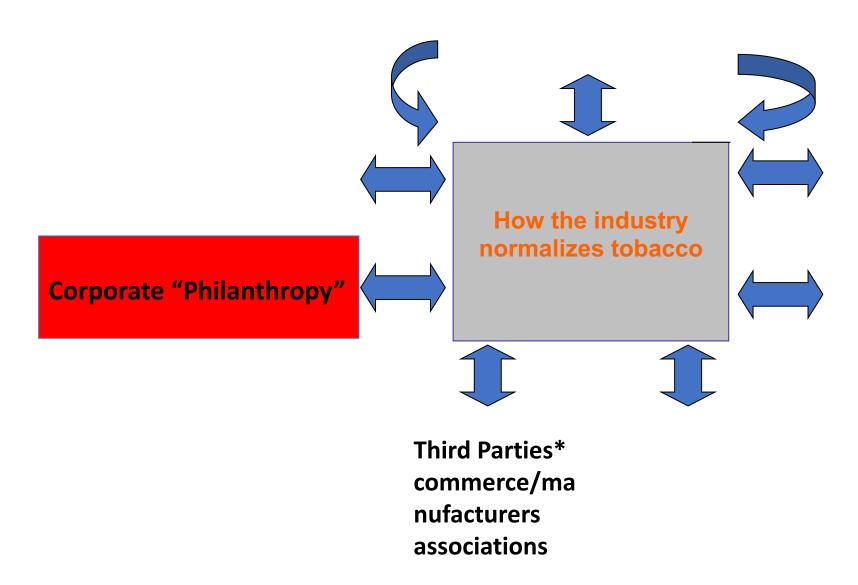
parties, we are on our way to ensuring a [YSP] programme that is credible,

"The underpinning objective of the Youth Smoking Programme is to block

the sale of tobacco products to minors at the point of sale, and Brydens

Barbarees, we fully support laws and regulations prohibiting the sale of

accepted and successful."



CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

The huge profits generated by the sale of tobacco are sometimes used to promote tobacco industry under the guise of CSR as 'good corporate citizens'

This tactic has been used all across the Caribbean region to boost the image of the tobacco companies

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

The tobacco industry relies heavily on CSR activities to 'normalise' its products in light of criticisms aimed at its advertising and promotional strategies

Tobacco industry executives have often attempted to bolster their reputation by being photographed in the company of Ministers of Government and other high-ranking government officials at social functions. The photographs are then prominently placed in leading newspapers









Carreras meeting with Customs Department and Minister of Security-2018



Managing Director, Carreras Limited Marcus Steele (left) looks closely at illegal cigarettes smuggled into the country at yesterday's Anti-Illicit Trade Conference at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, while (from 2nd left) Caribbean External Affairs and Anti-Illicit Trade Manager British American Tobacco John Padgett, International Advisor, Illicit Trade Michael Ellis; and Acting Deputy Commissioner for Operations at **Jamaica Customs Agency** Kirk Benjamin look on.

Function to honor Carreras CEO

Normalising
Tobacco
Products Honoring
Carreras CEO



Carreras gets new Corporate office Jun 2015

"Among the invited guests were ministers of government, members of parliament, heads of private-sector businesses, Carreras staff members, pensioners and former employees."



Food for the Poor Jamaica (FFP) collaborates with Carreras to build houses (2016)



African countries for

accepting refugees

his frome in Lincoland. St. California, recordly.



Food for the Poor Jamaica (FFP) collaborates with Carreras to build houses (2016)

- Press articles about Carreras building houses
- Facebook posts also
- JCTC wrote to FFP
- Facebook post removed
- No response to date





Tree planting – T&T

November 2009. WITCO partnered with ASA Wright Nature Centre for a massive tree-planting activity to plant some 9,000 trees on 1,500 acres of land. The aim was to reduce and neutralise WITCO's 'carbon footprint' by engaging in planting a swathe of trees

Witco executive director Sheldon Taitt, left, joins Arima MP Penelope Beckles, right, and Asa Wright Nature Centre chairman, Dr Carol James, in the symbolic planting of a tree at the centre's Blanchisseuse Old Road, Arima grounds



Planting Mangroves - Guyana

- June 2010. The Mangrove Action Committee worked with Demerara **Tobacco Company** (DTC) to heighten awareness of the importance of mangroves and the need to protect and preserve them.
- In collaboration with DTC also, new mangrove trees were planted and would be monitored to ensure sustainability

Donating park benches - Jamaica





2013-Left-Mayor of Mandeville, Councillor Brenda Ramsay explains to Carreras Managing Director, Marcus Steele (centre) the refurbishment plans for the Cecil Charlton Park. Looking on is Corporate & Regulatory Affairs Manager Christopher Brown (Left), Councillor Dalton Brown, Erwin Facey, Deputy Mayor of Mandeville and Carreras Areas Sales Manager, Chavanie Clarke (right).

Right-Marcus Steele discussing Carreras' partnership with the Manchester Chamber of Commerce President, Wendy Freckleton, while enjoying the comfort of one of the 10 benches provided by Carreras.

CARICOM RECEIVES DONATIONS 2015



CARICOM SG, Ambassador LaRocque receives donations from the Managing Director of the Demerara Tobacco Company Ltd, Guyana, Maurlain Kirton, on behalf of the people of Dominica. (**Guyana Private Sector Commission**)CARICOM website

CARICOM RECEIVES DONATIONS 2015



Ambassador LaRocque was joined by **Dominica's National Security, Justice and Immigration Minister** Hon. Rayburn Blackmoore to receive the donations of medical supplies, generators, cleaning items and cash, generously provided by New Guyana Pharmaceutical Company, Gaico Construction and General Services Inc., National Hardware, **Demerara Tobacco Co Ltd** and CAMEX.

Donation to Shelter Programme



In foreground L to R are Margaret Kertzious and Maurlaine Argyle-Kirton. In the background are staff members of **Demtoco**.

- Stabroek News December 9, 2016
- The Demerara Tobacco Company as part of its Christmas outreach and Community Service Initiative has donated several mattresses and electric fans to the Help and Shelter programme of the Ministry of Social Protection.
- A release from DEMTOCO said that in handing over the items the Managing Director of DEMTOCO, Maurlaine Argyle-Kirton, said that the Company is very pleased to assist the Women's Shelter
- Part of the Company's annual Christmas Corporate Social Responsibility Programme.

Donation of hurricane relief items

Stabroek News



- Local businesses donate millions more in hurricane relief supplies-September 2017-Guyana
- Local businesses are continuing to band together in solidarity to donate millions in relief supplies to those islands affected by hurricanes in the past weeks.
- \$84,000 worth of tarpaulin from Demerara Tobacco

Carreras' donation during COVID

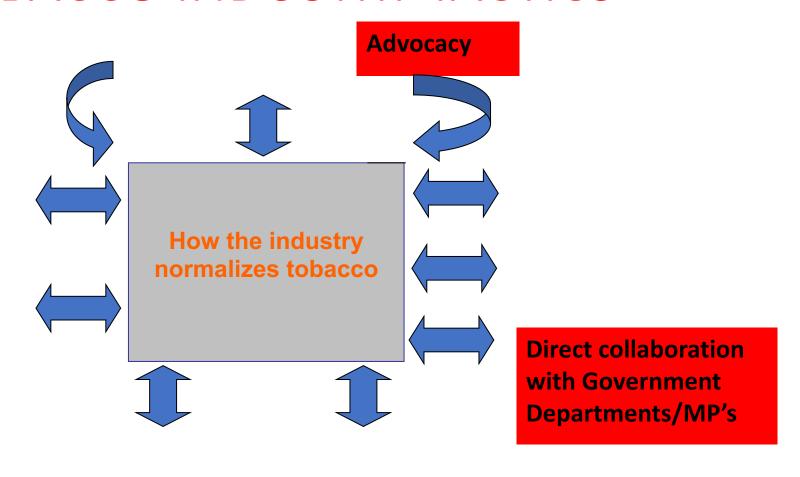
Carreras donates \$9.5m to COVID-19 relief programme 28 May, 2020 – Jamaica Observer



Through the Private Sector Organization of Jamaica

Raoul Glynn, Managing Director, Carreras Ltd (left) with an elderly resident of the Central Village community during the COVID-19 food relief distribution initiative on Saturday, May 23.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY TACTICS



Direct collaboration with Government Departments







2011-Donation of motor bikes, funding to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (police) for the repair of approximately 68 police service vehicles - value was J\$2.8million, donation of computers valued at over JA\$1,000,000

Tobacco industry donates to MP'S

(JAMAICA 2012)



LATEST HENCYMES

Plans to counter rising food prices

4 MP's fingered for taking donations from tobacco companies

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Four Members of Parliament have been pointed out by the Jamaica Coalition for Wed. Sep. 12, 2012 6: 10pm Tobacco Control for taking donations from tobacco companies which it says is in breach of the World Health Organization, WHO's treaty convention for tobacco control.

0 Comment









\$5 MILLION DOLLARS PER CONSTITUENCY **EARMARKED FOR** COMMUNITY **DEVELOPMENT (Jamaica 50 celebrations)**

Appointment of Tobacco Representative to Public Health Board

March 2012

- The Bureau of Standards Jamaica -Standards Council is a Government Board
- This Board was responsible for the approval of the Graphic Health warning standard for cigarette products
- Tobacco Representative appointed to Board

JCTC response re appointment of tobacco representative to public health board

- Letters sent to the relevant Ministries and Board Chairman highlighting contravention of Article 5.3 of the FCTC
- MOH and the JCTC presented to the Board explaining the breach of Article 5.3
- Tobacco company representative removed from the Public Health Board

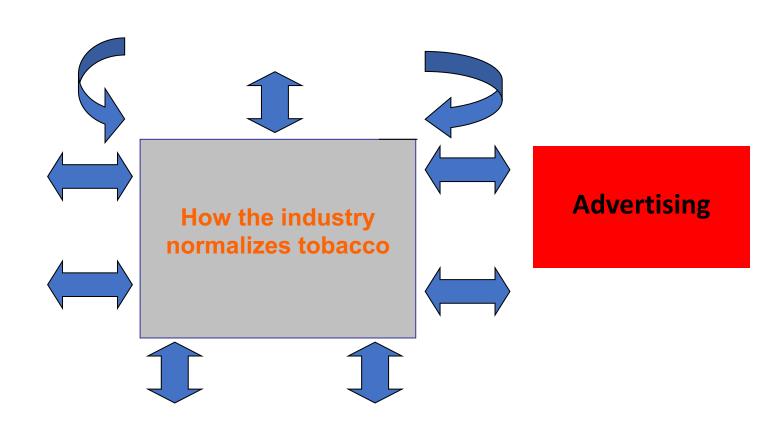
Use of JCF and Jamaica Customs logo in Carreras Ads 2013





Letters requesting the removal of the ad from the back of the bus sent to the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing, the legal officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the chairman of the JUTC. A response was received from Minister of Transport and Works indicating the removal of same at the end of the year.

TOBACCO INDUSTRY TACTICS



TOBACCO INDUSTRY TACTICS

- Not many countries have enacted Article 13 of the FCTC
- Tobacco companies use events etc to advertise their product

Carnival Jamaica 2018



Frenchman party Jamaica



Kingston Creative Webinar June 2020



Ingenious ways to advertise your product!



Jamaica Observer Newspaper March 17-2021 in response to price increase for Craven-A

Ingenious ways to advertise your product!



Jamaica Observer Newspaper Feb 2021- new brand package for Craven-A



Billboards



Voluntary agreement to halt billboards brokered with Carreras in December 2005

New brand of tobacco Marlboro Red launched in Jamaica by Phillip Morris in 2016 Billboards were reinstituted!

This graphic is in breach of Article 5.3 of the FCTC



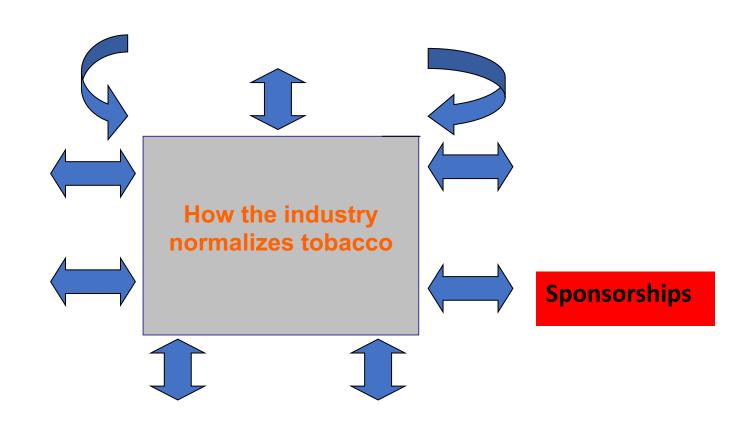


New graphic for Carreras – without logos after JCTC intervention





TOBACCO INDUSTRY TACTICS



Carreras' commitment to Empowering Young Adults Through Education 2016



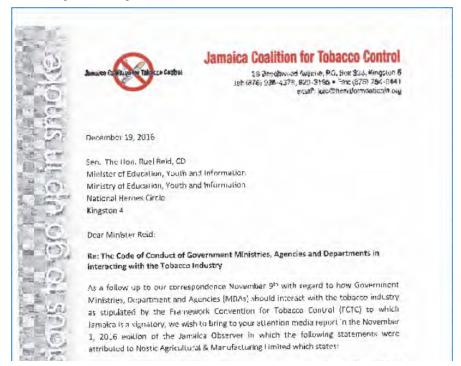
Carreras Limited Managing Director Marcus Steele (front row, centre), Minister of Education, Youth and Information Senator the Honourable Ruel Reid (third right) share a memorable moment with the Carreras Limited 2016 40 scholarship recipients

40 scholarships \$8 million

Carreras' commitment to Empowering Young Adults Through Education

JCTC response

- Letter written to the Minister of Education regarding Article 5.3
- Confirmation of receipt by Minister



Carreras donates academic scholarships (2017)

OCTAL 12

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University of the West Indice student Lode Bounett received the SLUK Scholarship plaque from Cameras Managing Director Marcus Stocks.



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Carreras Helps

4段Big Dreams



Carners Managing Birsetin Marcus Steele traction high colds! Oct Scholarship recipients—the distribution statement and women—from hell, Anieles Comi, Steep-Ann Hymen, Distribut Substant and Minner Mitchell, Photos: Nichael Cortes).



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43 scholarships \$8 million

Carreras donates academic scholarships (2018)



42 scholarships \$7 million

Recipients of the Carreras 2018 scholarships pose with their plaques along with Minister of Labour and Social Security Shahine Robinson (seated, centre); Marcus Steele (seated, fifth right), Carreras managing director; and Pearnel Charles Jr. (seated, fifth left), state minister in the Ministry of National Security, at the Carreras 2018 Scholarship Awards Ceremony at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel last Tuesday. Mijanou (second row, second right), was among the 42 scholars who were presented with awards.



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Scholarship Awards



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Entertainers through at 9 Dylan Askerson

September 2019

At Tuesday's function, Carreras presented scholarship awards and cheques amounting to \$11 million to 52 tertiary students, out of a total of 500 applicants.

The Carreras scholarship programme, according to the release, has been in existence since 1967.

The objective is to:

- Increase access to tertiary education,
- Increase academic achievement by reducing the concerns of families and students about how fees will be paid,
- Help to retain high-ability citizens in **Jamaica**

52 scholarships \$11 million

Carreras Annual Academic Scholarships

YEAR	# of Scholarships	Total Value (J\$000,000)
2015	32	\$4.35 million
2016	40	\$7.3 million
2017	43	\$8.1 million
2018	42	\$7.0 million
2019	52	\$11 million
2020	?	?

OPPORTUNITIES

High-level government leadership, as seen in some Caribbean countries, can significantly alter the landscape of tobacco control and accelerate the progress of policies

Implementation of the Port of Spain Declaration on NCDs is crucial as tobacco control is highlighted as a priority

There has been a call for integration of WHO FCTC implementation into countries' health and development plans.

OPPORTUNITIES

At the country level, The United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) is a good opportunity for UN Agencies to support Caribbean Governments in implementation of the FCTC. The MSDF Caribbean 2017 to 2021 incorporates FCTC implementation

Lessons learned

Civil society efforts are crucial to successful tobacco control efforts

Governments need to implement the FCTC

Article 5.3 is an important measure to reduce tobacco industry interference

Some public health officials are not fully aware of the implications of Article 5.3

Lessons learned

Multi-sectoral partnerships important for advocacy

Support from international partners is very important

Media can be a powerful tool for and ally of tobacco control advocates

POLICY, POLICY

In memory of two of our leading tobacco control advocates: John died from lung cancer. Dr Hagley was the first Chairman of the JCTC - we will not let their death be in vain......





Committed to a Tobacco Free Caribbean





